# City of Lafayette Staff Report

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| **For:** | City Council |
| **By:** | Leah C. Greenblat, Transportation Planner |
| **Date Written:** | April 3, 2009 |
| **Meeting Date:** | April 13, 2009 |
| **Subject:** | Request for No Parking Anytime Designation on the Public Portion of Hillview Lane |

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## Introduction

In response to a neighborhood request, the Circulation Commission held a meeting at which it considered and recommended establishing a No Parking Anytime designation on the west side of the public portion of Hillview Lane. Staff supports this recommendation and recommends that the City Council adopt Resolution No. 2009-025, implementing the No Parking Anytime zone.

## Discussion

For the Circulation Commission's meeting on January 20, 2009, staff prepared a report, attached, with the background information surrounding this request. Due to the streets proximity to two schools (Springhill and Acalanes), there has been a tendency for parents to park on the narrow roadway in the shoulder walking area to wait to pick up students. Students walking are then shifted into the travel lane. Additionally, the vehicles make three-point turns into the shoulder walking area further raising pedestrian safety concerns.

At its meeting, the Commission heard comment from two speakers; one speaking in support of the No Parking Anytime designation and the other against. At the meeting, the Commission, notwithstanding its questions about the impacts to adjacent and nearby properties, voted unanimously to support a No Parking Anytime designation on the west side of the public portion of the street, draft minutes attached.

After the meeting, staff discovered a discrepancy in the postcard noticing for this item (the sign board placed in the street announcing the meeting was thankfully correct). In an abundance of caution, staff sent a follow-up letter, attached, to all property owners explaining the noticing situation and seeking feedback from residents on the remaining process for the proposed parking restriction. To date, staff has received no additional



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response to our letter. Receiving no further comments, staff recommends the Council adopt the Circulation Commission and staff recommendation.

**Fiscal Impact**

Minimal. The cost associated with installing signage can be accommodated within the existing Streets Maintenance budget.

**Recommendation**

1. Adopt Resolution No. 2009-025

**Attachments**

1. Resolution No. 2009-025
2. February 19, 2009 letter sent to property owners within 300 feet of the subject request
3. Excerpt of draft January 20, 2009 Circulation Commission Meeting Minutes
4. January 13, 2009 staff report by Leah Greenblat, Transportation Planner

BEFORE THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAFAYETTE

In the matter of:

Designating the West Side of Hillview Lane )
Beginning at Quandt Road and Extending )
South Approximately 600 Feet to the end of )
The Public Section of the Road as a No )
Parking Anytime Zone) Resolution No. 2009–025

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WHEREAS, staff and the Circulation Commission reviewed the parking and circulation issues in the area around Hillview Lane;

WHEREAS, the portion of Hillview Lane that runs west to east is a privately maintained street and the north to south portion is a publicly maintained street;

WHEREAS, the subject portion of Hillview Lane is a narrow public residential street with a shoulder walkway within a short walk of the Springhill Elementary School and Acalanes High School;

WHEREAS, the public portion of Hillview Lane is currently unregulated in terms of parking time zone regulations;

WHEREAS, the Circulation Commission and staff wanted to improve pedestrian safety by prohibiting vehicles from parking along the pedestrian walkway;

WHEREAS, the Circulation Commission and staff recommend designating the west side of the public portion of Hillview Lane as a No Parking Anytime zone beginning at Quandt Road and extending approximately 600 feet to the south to the end of the public portion of the road; and

WHEREAS, the City Council reviewed these parking and circulation issues in the area of Hillview Lane;

NOW THEREFORE, the City Council of the City of Lafayette, California RESOLVES to designate the west side of Hillview Lane beginning at Quandt Road and extending approximately 600 feet to the south to the end of the public portion of Hillview Lane as a No Parking Anytime zone; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the above parking restriction become effective once posted or otherwise designated and then the Police Services Department is directed to enforce these new parking regulations.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Lafayette at a regular meeting of said Council on April 13, 2009 by the following vote:

AYES:
NOES:
ABSENT:
ABSTAIN:

APPROVED:

MAYOR Don Tatzin

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK Joanne Robbins

LAFAYETTE
SETTLED 1848 == INCORPORATED 1968

CITY COUNCIL

Don Tatzin, Mayor
Brandt Andersson, Vice Mayor
Mike Anderson, Council Member
Carl Anduri, Council Member
Carol Federighi, Council Member

February 19, 2009

RE: Parking on the West Side of Hillview Lane

Dear Property Owner:

On January 20, 2009, the Lafayette Circulation Commission held a meeting to discuss a request to establish a No Parking Anytime designation on the public portion of Hillview Lane. The primary intent of restricting the parking would be to maintain the shoulder area for pedestrians walking where there is currently no sidewalk. At its meeting, the Commission unanimously agreed to forward a recommendation to the City Council to prohibit parking or stopping on the west side of Hillview Lane.

The next step would be to agendize this item at a City Council meeting in March; however, City staff discovered an error in the postcard noticing which you may have received previously. (The sign board notice placed at Hillview Lane and Quandt Road contained the correct information.) In order to address this error, we are requesting that if you have an issue or concern regarding the proposed Circulation Commission recommendation that you wish to raise to the City's attention, please let us know in writing by March 1, 2009. You may submit your comments via mail or email at the contact information listed below. The Circulation Commission staff report on the parking request is available on the City's web site (www.ci.lafayette.ca.us).

Sincerely,

Leah Greenblat

Leah Greenblat
Transportation Planner
City of Lafayette
3675 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Suite 210
Lafayette, CA 94549

Lgreenblat@ci.lafayette.ca.us

City of Lafayette
Circulation Commission Regular Meeting
Draft Minutes

Lafayette Community Center
Lafayette, CA

January 20, 2009
7:00 PM

**1. Call to Order** Chair Ross called the meeting to order at 7:08 PM.

**2. Roll Call**

Present: Chair Ross, Commissioners Holit, Hughes, Poling, and Sevilla

Absent: Vice Chair Hiden and Commissioner Wood (excused)

BPAC: None

Staff: Ms. Leah Greenblat, Transportation Planner; Mr. Chuck DeLeuw, Consulting Traffic Engineer; Ms. Marie Pettersen, Contract Minutes Taker

**3. Adoption of the Agenda**

Commissioner Holit moved and Commissioner Hughes seconded to adopt the agenda as submitted. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

**4. Public Comments**

Jim Peacock said that the Commission had installed hatch marks to enable drivers to exit safely out of Wilkinson Lane. This has given the FedEx trucks more room to park but whenever possible he drives through the Mercantile to the signal at Lafayette Circle to exit safely. Trucks are at the FedEx location all the time and the police cannot catch them on a regular basis. The hatching has not worked. The Commission first tried making this a red zone, and the second attempt was the hatch marks. It is time to move forward for a more permanent remedy.

Commissioner Poling recommended staff consider next steps and agendize this item on a future agenda. There were no objections from the Commission.

**5. New Business**

**a. Consideration of a No Parking Anytime Zone on the Public Portion of Hillview Lane that Parallels Pleasant Hill Road between Quandt Road and Hillview Lane (Private Portion)**

Ms. Greenblat said the City received a request from a resident on Hillview Lane to designate a No Parking Anytime zone on a portion of Hillview Lane. A portion of Hillview Lane parallels Pleasant Hill Road. As the road turns east it is a private road. The north-south portion is a public street situated between two local schools: Springhill School and Acalanes High School. It was intended that pedestrians would walk in the shoulder area and where it becomes a private street it transitions to an off-street path bringing pedestrians back to Pleasant Hill Road. Hillview Lane is relatively narrow and not intended for parking. Cars wait on the shoulder to pick up and drop off students. Staff recommends the installation of a No Parking Anytime zone on the public portion of Hillview Lane.

Chair Ross opened the meeting to public comment on this item.

Hercules Christofides said he objects to the No Parking Anytime zone which would deny on-street parking to residents. It is impossible for service vehicles to park. If the problem is with school parking then why not make the no parking zone during those hours. He said the staff report was for both sides and he wondered what the intention was for the west side.

Ms. Greenblat replied that the No Parking Anytime zone applied to the west side only with the right side being a travel lane.

Debra Christofides passed on her turn to speak.

Michael Walker said he drives up and down the public portion of the road. This is a pedestrian walkway for many people. Parked vehicles routinely compound the problem. Waste Management has to send special trucks to navigate this narrow road and it also presents a problem for emergency vehicles. He would want a minimum lane for driveways to exit their property and supports the No Parking Anytime zone.

Chair Ross closed the public comment period on this item.

Commissioner Poling said she supported staff's recommendation and would like to be able to find a way to create more parking on the public portion on the east side to the extent possible.

Commissioner Sevilla said that she is not sure that no parking on the west side will eliminate people parking cars for school drop off and pick up. In order to turn around, people have to pull into private driveways. She supports the No Parking Anytime zone on the west side but also whatever else the neighbors suggest.

Ms. Greenblat said this makes it a judgment call for the parking enforcement officer and the police have indicated that they want something that they can clearly enforce. If the parking can be enforced with the posting of the signs, then perhaps this will prevent people from stopping there.

Commissioner Poling asked about the City's right-of-way.

Ms. Greenblat said the west side was definitely the City's right-of-way but it becomes more questionable on the east side.

Commissioner Hughes said that he supported staff's recommendation but was concerned about enforcement.

Commissioner Holit said that people want to park on one side or another and feels if there isn't restricted parking on both sides, it will not achieve what they are trying to achieve. He noticed that the line of sight is difficult there and that vegetation needs to be trimmed back, maybe even into private property. He feels they have every right to have property owners prune their vegetation back even on the east side.

Commissioner Hughes said the street penalizes people parking on the east side of the street and that would be his objection to no parking on the east side. He said that designated hourly parking on the east side would be a fair adjustment.

Commissioner Holit asked if they could make the parking for residents only.

Ms. Greenblat explained that the City does have a residential parking permit program but it only allows for parking by residents on that street. Perpendicular streets would not be able to get permits to park on Hillview Lane. She does not believe there is much City right-of-way on the east side in which case the City would need to perform a survey to establish how much is actually City right-of-way. She would not

recommend doing that in this case as it would set a precedent and there are many similar occurrences throughout the City.

Commissioner Sevilla moved and Commissioner Poling seconded to forward staff's recommendation to Council to designate the public portion of Hillview Lane as a No Parking or Stopping Anytime zone. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

**b. Consideration of Designating a 4-Hour Parking Time Zone on Both Sides of Nordstrom Lane Beginning at Glen Road and Extending to the West End of #3671 Nordstrom Lane**

Ms. Greenblat said that the City received a request from residents to designate a portion of Nordstrom Lane adjacent to Glen Road as either a No Parking Anytime or limited time parking zone. Currently there are no posted time zones at this location, while there are a variety of time zones up and down the street. Residents are noting BART patrons parking in this locations as well as some construction vehicles. Staff is recommending a 4-hour parking zone on Nordstrom Lane, Monday - Friday from 7AM - 6PM.

Commissioner Poling asked if BART patrons would then just move to another location.

Ms. Greenblat said due to the change in the roadway character further west on Nordstrom Lane, she thought it might discourage people from parking beyond the subject area but it is possible that the neighbors may come back and ask for further parking restrictions if the BART parkers continue to creep up the side streets.

Commissioner Holit said that if they did not make any changes to the parking zone then it would remain as is, which is the ability to park in that location all day.

Ms. Greenblat replied that was correct.

Chair Ross opened the meeting to public comment on this item.

Richard Sutcliffe said he has lived in the neighborhood for 28 years and submitted the transportation action form. The first block of Nordstrom is wide and straight and BART patrons come further up the Glen Road to park on Nordstrom. Large trucks use this as a staging area. Some days the trucks are there all day long. They block the entrances to people's driveways, they're noisy, and so on. He is hoping this will stop with the designation of a time zone.

Chair Ross closed the meeting to public comment on this item.

Commissioner Sevilla moved and Commissioner Hughes seconded staff's recommendation to forward to Council the designation of a 4-hour parking zone on Nordstrom Lane, Monday-Friday, 7AM - 6PM. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

## 6. Consent Calendar

**a. Minutes of December 1, 2008**

Commissioner Poling moved and Commissioner Hughes seconded approval of the minutes of December 1, 2008 as submitted. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

## 7. Staff Reports

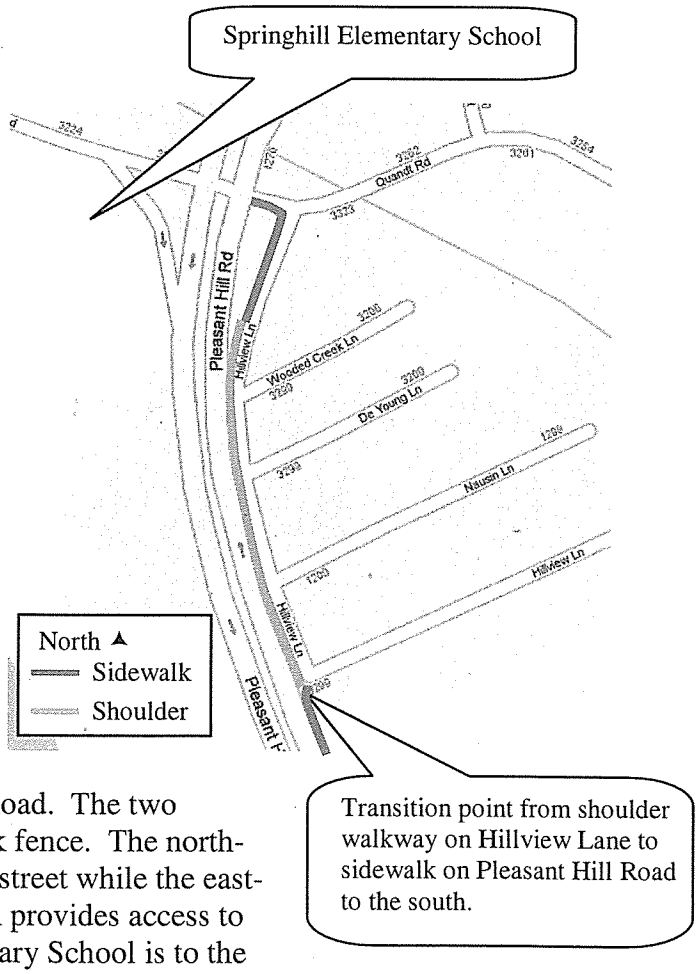
**a. Review Draft Measure C Checklist Update on Recent Council Actions**

# City of Lafayette Staff Report

| | |
|---|---|
| **For:** | Circulation |
| **By:** | Leah C. Greenblat, Transportation Planner |
| **Date Written:** | January 13, 2009 |
| **Meeting Date:** | January 20, 2009 |
| **Subject:** | Request for No Parking Anytime Designation on the Public Portion of Hillview Lane |

## Introduction

The City received a request from a resident of Hillview Lane requesting a No Parking Anytime zone to prevent vehicles from parking in the shoulder area intended for pedestrians. After a thorough investigation, the City determined that the subject portion of the road is a public street and within the jurisdiction of the City. As the shoulder-walkway and the sidewalk provide critical walking routes to both Springhill and Acalanes schools, staff supports the request for designating the No Parking Anytime zone on Hillview Lane.




## Discussion

The public portion of Hillview Lane is parallel and serves as a frontage road to Pleasant Hill Road, just south of Quandt Road. The two roadways are separated by a low chain link fence. The north-south portion of Hillview Lane is a public street while the east-west portion is private. The public portion provides access to several private streets. Springhill Elementary School is to the west and Acalanes High School to the south, so Hillview Lane provides a key pedestrian linkage because the adjacent portion of Pleasant Hill Road does not have a sidewalk. On



ITEM 5A.1

the west side of Hillview Lane for a short distance south of Quandt Road, there is a sidewalk. The sidewalk quickly transitions to a shoulder-walkway until the street turns east. At this point, a short pathway transitions pedestrians from the shoulder walkway on the west side of Hillview Lane to the north end of the sidewalk on Pleasant Hill Road.

During pick up and drop off times at the schools, parents have begun parking on Hillview Lane to wait for students. Hillview Lane is narrow and does not have sufficient roadway width to accommodate two-way traffic, parking and a shoulder-walkway. Drivers are parking adjacent to the sidewalk and block two-way travel or they park in the shoulder-walkway creating a potential pedestrian safety issue. When drivers park on the shoulder-walkway, pedestrians must then walk in the travel lanes. Drivers undertake multi-point turns in order to turn around and exit the street. It is undesirable to have pedestrians walking in the travel lanes when these unpredictable turns occur. Currently there are no signs prohibiting parking or stopping in the shoulder-walkway even though it is too narrow to accommodate parked vehicles. According to the Lafayette Police Chief, the department will not cite vehicles until a No Parking or Stopping sign is in place.

The resident requesting the No Parking designation also suggests installing a "No School Drop Off" sign below the existing "Not a Through Street" sign located at Quandt Road. Staff does not recommend the installation of this additional sign. The location is already complicated due to the multiple streets intersecting and the associated turning movements. Driver obedience to the proposed No Parking signs and parking enforcement will be how the shoulder-walkway will be maintained for pedestrians. An unenforceable additional sign adds to the visual clutter when a driver's attention should be focused elsewhere.

Staff additionally noted that the existing edge line had faded and has submitted a request to re-fresh the edge line on Hillview Lane.

**Fiscal Impact**

Minimal.

**Recommendation**

1. Forward a recommendation to the City Council to designate the public portion of Hillview Lane as a No Parking or Stopping Anytime zone.

**Attachments**

1. Email request from Michael Walker

**Greenblat, Leah**

**From:** Lafayette Help Line [noreply@user.govoutreach.com]
**Sent:** Monday, October 06, 2008 12:30 PM
**To:** Greenblat, Leah
**Subject:** You have been assigned a new Request #: 186694

**Request # 186694 from the Government Outreach System has been assigned to you by Ron Lefler.**

**Request type:** Problem
**Request area:** Sign Installation, Repairs/Replacement
**Citizen name:** Michael Walker
**Description:** As you probably know, Hillview Lane, where it parallels Pleasant Hill Road is a city street (not private). It is also used as a walkway for pedestrians transitioning from Quandt to the sidewalks, about 200-300 yards to the south. There is already a white stripe painted on the west side of Hillview Lane that indicates the extent of the single driving lane for the street. Though I think it better that the entire street be "No Parking" at the minimum there are no corresponding "No Parking" signs to indicate no parking on that side of the street. This should be corrected. Vehicles sometimes park on both sides of the street, causing a bottleneck that is difficult to navigate, especially for an emergency response vehicle. Those parking here probably wouldn't if it were clearly posted that doing so was illegal. During the morning school rush, we are experiencing a large amount of drop off traffic (7:00 to 8:15 AM), which would perhaps not be so bad if Hillview Lane were a through street. But at times the street is clogged with dropoffs, stopped cars, driveway turnarounds, and street traffic. Is it possible to mount a "No School Drop Off" sign beneath the "Not a Through Street" sign at the entrance to Hillview Lane? This is more than an annoyance, as the traffic load swells at exactly the time students are walking on Hillview to get to school.

Click here to access the request

Note: This message is for notification purposes only. Please do not reply to this email. Email replies are not monitored and will be ignored.

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